

REMARKS

Claims 9-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are canceled and claims 9-11 are added. No new matter has been added.

The rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101, claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Tassicker et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,760,483 ("Tassicker"), claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Chow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,427,087 ("Chow"), claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Ok et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0095193 ("Ok") or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ok, in view of Chow or Tassicker, claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ok or, in the alternative, over Ok in view of Chow or Tassicker, claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ok in view of Chow or Tassicker, claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ok or, in the alternative, over Ok in view of Chow or Tassicker, and further in view of WO 00/56393, and claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ok or, in the alternative, over Ok in view of Chow or Tassicker, and further in view of the Walter et al. article "Evoked cortical potentials after electrical stimulation of the inner retina in rabbits," have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-8.

Applicants submit that claims 9-11 are patentable over Tassicker and Chow. Tassicker and Chow fail to disclose the operation method recited in claim 9 because neither reference discloses any operation method. Tassicker and Chow also fail to disclose an operation method involving the placement of an electrode array between a choroid and a sclera of the eye, the electrode array including a plurality of stimulation electrodes being adapted to be connected to a converter and give converted electrical stimulation pulse signals to cells constituting a retina of the eye, as recited in claim 9.

Tassicker's array 10 is not adapted to be connected to a converter nor does it give converted electrical stimulation pulse signals to cells constituting a retina of the eye.

Tassicker, at column 1, lines 43-53, and column 2, lines 13-23, teaches away from placing the

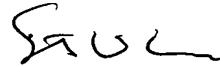
array between the choroid and the sclera of the eye. Likewise, Chow's array 12 is not adapted to be connected to a converter nor does it give converted electrical stimulation pulse signals to cells constituting a retina of the eye. Chow is silent on the performance of their array when placed between the choroid and sclera of the eye because, as seen with Tassicker, such arrays would not function well when implanted entirely in the low-light conditions existing between the choroid and sclera.

Furthermore, Tassicker and Chow do not disclose an operation method involving the placement of a receiver in a patient's head, the receiver being adapted to receive data for electrical stimulation pulse signals based on photograph data taken by a photographing unit outside the eye, as recited in claim 9. Tassicker and Chow do not disclose a receiver and, moreover, the Tassicker and Chow devices are contained entirely inside the eye.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 16, 2005

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